

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 539

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to congratulate and honor Head Coach Matt Eldridge and the Livingston Academy football team upon winning the 2005 TSSAA Class 3A Football Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this great State; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Matt Eldridge, the Livingston Academy football team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2005 season, winning the TSSAA Class 3A Football Championship; and

WHEREAS, the Wildcat's explosive offense amassed an incredible 394 points during their 15-game season, an average of almost four touchdowns per game; and

WHEREAS, Livingston Academy's stingy defense allowed only 323 points to be scored by their opponents, an average of only three touchdowns per game; and

WHEREAS, the Wildcats rolled through the playoffs by prevailing over the powerhouse teams of Knoxville Carter (27-24), Austin-East (18-15), Knoxville Catholic (24-20), and Notre Dame (48-34) in a juggernaut-like tromp into the state championship game; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2005, Livingston Academy completed their Cinderella season by beating David Lipscomb High School 28-13 in the Class 3A Blue Cross Blue Shield Bowl; and

WHEREAS, defying all odds, the Livingston Academy Wildcats became the first football team in Tennessee history to win a state football title with five losses; and

WHEREAS, after Livingston's stout defense forced David Lipscomb to punt on their first possession in the State Championship game, the Wildcats drove the length of the field, and

quarterback Wilson Cates completed a 6-yard pass to Jake Peterman for the first touchdown of the game; and

WHEREAS, after establishing the lead, the tenacious Wildcats never relinquished it, recording 4 touchdowns, 306 yards on the ground, and 65 yards in the air; and

WHEREAS, Wilson Cates was named the Offensive Most Valuable Player of the State Title Game, after he threw for 65 yards, and ran for 103 yards and a touchdown; and

WHEREAS, other offensive leaders include Jake Reeder, who ran for 116 yards, and Jamey Vaughn, who rushed for 87 yards and two touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a successful and memorable football season, but also surely points toward their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, head coach Matt Eldridge laid the groundwork for this year's championship team by sharing with these young men his substantial knowledge of football, his many years of coaching and athletic experience, and his passion both for the sport of football and for excellence in every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, displaying great sportsmanship and outstanding character, the Livingston Wildcats conducted themselves in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the tremendous accomplishments of those student athletes who have excelled both on the field and in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that that we congratulate and honor Head Coach Matt Eldridge and the Livingston Academy football team upon winning the 2005 TSSAA Class 3A Football Championship and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.